



pennsylvania

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

Pennsylvania eHealth Partnership Program

*Annual Report to the Governor and General Assembly
Under Act 76 of 2016
for the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2021*



Pennsylvania Department of Human Services | eHealth Partnership Program
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Letter from the Secretary

To: Governor Tom Wolf
President pro tempore, Jake Corman
Speaker of the House of Representatives, Brian Cutler

The Pennsylvania Department of Human Services (DHS) is pleased to present the Pennsylvania eHealth Partnership Program (PA eHealth) Annual Report, which covers state fiscal year 2020-2021 from July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021.

Fiscal Year 2020-2021 was a remarkable year of growth and innovation for regional and statewide health information exchange, despite the prolonged COVID-19 Public Health Emergency. PA eHealth worked closely with the five Pennsylvania Patient and Provider Network (P3N) Certified Health Information Organizations (HIOs) and the Department of Corrections to increase and enhance provider and payer participation, and to increase the quality and quantity of data available at the point of care. To support improved treatment and care coordination, all five HIOs added many acute hospital inpatient encounters to the P3N Statewide Admission Discharge Transfer (ADT) Service. The P3N ADT Service was also leveraged for Department of Health (DOH) daily reports of exposed and confirmed COVID-19 cases. Due to new mandated reporting of COVID-19 vaccinations to the PA State Immunization Information System (PA-SIIS), many vaccine providers and centers onboarded to the Public Health Gateway (PHG) through their HIO for efficient reporting of COVID-19 vaccinations.

PA eHealth worked with the Pennsylvania eHealth Partnership Advisory Board and many internal and external stakeholders to develop a new three-year strategic plan that aligns with, and supports, the state's plans for improving whole-person care. In support of the new strategic plan, we selected a new partner, Cognosante, to provide an innovative and robust P3N and PHG system that will meet our current and future interoperability needs and integrate with state systems and programs.

This report provides a summary of PA eHealth's activities and accomplishments, a summary of receipts and expenditures, a list of contracts entered, and a summary of reportable breaches.

PA eHealth is instrumental in helping DHS achieve its goals of delivering integrated whole-person care and controlling health care costs. We are proud of the progress we've made this year, and we look forward to continuing to do our part to make HIE a key element in improving the health care and well-being of all Pennsylvanians.

Sincerely,



M. Snead
Acting Secretary
Department of Human Services

Act 76 of 2016 and the Pennsylvania eHealth Partnership Program

The Pennsylvania eHealth Partnership Program, created under Act 76 of 2016, is required to “submit an annual report to the Governor, the President pro tempore of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives for distribution to appropriate legislative committees on the activities of the program for the year, including a summary of the receipts and expenditures, a list of contracts and a summary of any reportable security breaches that occurred and corrective actions that were taken.”

Transition from Authority to Department of Human Services

The Pennsylvania eHealth Partnership Authority (Authority), the Pennsylvania eHealth Partnership Program’s (PA eHealth) predecessor entity, was created by Act 121 of 2012. The authorizing legislation included a 2017 expiration and prescribed that, one year prior to that expiration, the Legislative Budget and Finance Committee (LBFC) “shall evaluate the management, viability and performance of the health information exchange and shall provide a report to the Communications and Technology Committee of the Senate and the Health Committee of the House of Representatives and the Human Services Committee of the House of Representatives. The report shall include recommendations as to reauthorization of the Authority, dissolution of the Authority or assumption of the Authority’s responsibilities and assets by another entity.”

The LBFC evaluation and subsequent report occurred concurrently with the introduction and subsequent passage of legislation moving the Authority into the Department of Human Services (DHS). The [full report](#), and [report highlights](#), are available on the LBFC website, and provide extensive background and history of the Authority and its work toward developing the state’s health information exchange.

In 2016, Act 76 created PA eHealth within DHS. Concurrent with the passage of Act 76, Act 121 of 2012 was repealed, and the Authority and its governing board were disbanded. All the programmatic responsibilities of the Authority transitioned to PA eHealth in the Office of Medical Assistance Programs (OMAP).

The Pennsylvania Patient and Provider Network (P3N) Health Information Exchange Trust Community Committee (HIETCC), comprised of leaders within the five P3N Certified Health Information Organizations (HIOs), has met monthly since November 2013. The Pennsylvania eHealth Partnership Advisory Board held four quarterly meetings via video conference and one strategic planning working session via video conference, due to the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency.

This 2020-2021 Pennsylvania eHealth Partnership Program Annual Report covers accomplishments and activities of PA eHealth during state fiscal year 2020-2021 (July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021).

Summary of Activities and Accomplishments

During the report year, state fiscal year 2020-2021, PA eHealth executed against the eight strategies of the Pennsylvania eHealth Partnership Program Strategic Plan, January 1, 2018-June 20, 2021. PA eHealth's summary of activities and accomplishments is organized according to these eight strategies, as outlined below.

- 1. Improving existing services by leveraging other state services and resources**
 - PA eHealth supported production connections to four Department of Health (DOH) public health registries and one DHS registry.
 - PA eHealth implemented Phase 1 of provider directory improvements, leveraging data from DHS, DOH, Department of Aging, Department of Drug and Alcohol Programs, Department of State, and the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services.
 - PA eHealth supported the Governor's Interagency Health Reform Council's goal of whole-person health reform.

- 2. Expanding the coverage area of providers exchanging data**
 - DHS awarded \$7.7 million in HIE Onboarding Grants to connect 223 organizations to P3N Certified HIOs.
 - DHS awarded \$500,000 in Payor Onboarding grants to improve interoperability with MA MCOs.
 - DHS required MA Patient Centered Medical Homes to participate with P3N Certified HIOs.
 - PA eHealth worked closely with the Lehigh Valley Health Network (LVHN) to encourage them to become a P3N Certified HIO; signed application and participation agreement received in June 2021.

- 3. Increasing bi-directional access to the Public Health Gateway**
 - DHS awarded \$60,000 to HIOs to support their efforts to connect their member organizations (MOs) to the electronic lab public health registries through the PHG.
 - In SFY 2020-2021, DOH processed more than 8.5 million messages through the Public Health Gateway (PHG).
 - All five P3N Certified HIOs achieved production status with respect to one or more PHG registries, including production connection by all five to the Electronic Lab Registry (eLR).
 - Thirty-four HIO MOs are reporting the results of COVID-19 tests to the eLR through the PHG.

- 4. Improving data quality through analytics**
 - DHS awarded nearly \$300,000 in Patient Matching Improvement Grants to HIOs in FFY 2021 to improve patient matching within HIOs and across the P3N.
 - PA eHealth facilitated a complete refresh of patient demographic information in the P3N master patient index for a large HIO.
 - PA eHealth provided to HIOs a monthly HIO demographic data fill-rate report and a weekly report that identifies individual patient registrations with missing demographic information.
 - As a result of PA eHealth's efforts, patient matching or linking has steadily increased from 30.5% in June 2020 to 36.5% in June 2021.
 - PA eHealth selected new P3N and PHG system vendor.

5. Enhancing the types of data exchanged

- In SFY 2020-2021, the P3N sent more than 17.5 million Admission Discharge Transfer (ADT) records on behalf of nearly 700,000 patients who were receiving care outside of their “home” HIO.
- PA eHealth added seven acute emergency department ADT feeds to the P3N statewide ADT Service, for a total of 114 EDs; and added 68 inpatient ADT feeds for a total of 98.
- PA eHealth leveraged the P3N statewide ADT Service to support daily COVID-19 reports of exposed and confirmed COVID-19 cases to DOH, including patient demographic information.
- PA eHealth began development of a resource and referral tool (RRT) grant program for HIOs to select and become interoperable with a RRT vendor.

6. Updating the certification program

- In August 2020, PA eHealth and the P3N HIE Trust Community Committee (HIETCC) completed their annual review of the P3N HIO Certification Package and determined that no changes were required.
- PA eHealth developed a new three-year PA eHealth Partnership Program Strategic Plan, which became effective July 1, 2021.

7. Offering expanded system access

- Medicaid Fee-for-Service Case Managers’ use of the P3N Portal to improve the timeliness and completeness of their care plans for new and vulnerable enrollees continues to increase (more than 500 patients accessed per month).
- PA eHealth engaged in extensive discussions with the DOH Special Supplemental Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC) with the goal of providing their pediatric nutritionists with access to the P3N Portal to support a new telehealth model; granting access is complicated because the WIC centers are not HIPAA covered entities.

8. Facilitating inter-state and federal exchange

- PA eHealth secured a no-cost contract change request with IBM to onboard the Delaware Health Information Network (DHIN) to the P3N ADT Service.
- PA eHealth began onboarding the DHIN to the P3N ADT Service.
- PA eHealth has continued discussions with Maryland and West Virginia on alerting a patient’s care team when that patient crosses state boundaries in obtaining health care services.

Summary of Receipts and Expenditures

Receipts Detail Report PA eHealth Partnership Program (July 1, 2020–June 30, 2021)		
Business Area 21		
Description	Transaction Amount	Notes
Budget Amount	\$ 13,175,000.00	SFY 19/20 Budget Across all Funds
Deposit - Interagency	\$ 630,000.00	SFY 19/20 P3N HIO User Fees
TOTAL	\$ 13,805,000.00	

Summary of Expenditures PA eHealth Partnership Program (July 1, 2020–June 30, 2021)	
Business Area 21	
Expenditure Type	Expended Amount
Personnel	\$ 558,999.98
Operational	\$ 1,303,101.60
Grants	\$ 3,552,103.40
Total	\$ 5,414,204.98

List of Contracts

List of Contracts Executed by the Pennsylvania eHealth Partnership Program (July 1, 2020- June 20, 2021)					
Business Area 21					
Contract Type	Grantee Name	PA Vendor #	Contract #	Contract Amount	Notes
Grant	Clinical Connect	793238	21OB21100	\$1,090,000.00	Hospital/Facility Onboarding Grant Program
Grant	Clinical Connect	793238	21OB21200	\$550,000.00	Ambulatory Onboarding Grant Program
Grant	CPC HIE	117652	21OB21101	\$300,000.00	Hospital/Facility Onboarding Grant Program
Grant	CPC HIE	117652	21OB21201	\$300,000.00	Ambulatory Onboarding Grant Program
Grant	HealthShare Exchange	777978	21OB21102	\$1,770,000.00	Hospital/Facility Onboarding Grant Program
Grant	HealthShare Exchange	777978	21OB21202	\$917,500.00	Ambulatory Onboarding Grant Program
Grant	HealthShare Exchange	777978	21OB21300	\$50,000.00	Portal Onboarding
Grant	KeyHIE	793863	21OB21103	\$1,550,000.00	Hospital/Facility Onboarding Grant Program
Grant	KeyHIE	793863	21OB21203	\$1,175,000.00	Ambulatory Onboarding Grant Program
Grant	Clinical Connect	793238	21PHG21200	\$55,000.00	PHG Grant Program
Grant	KeyHIE	793863	21PHG21201	\$5,000.00	PHG Grant Program
Grant	Clinical Connect	793238	21POB21100	\$100,000.00	Payor Onboarding Grant
Grant	HealthShare Exchange	777978	21POB21101	\$200,000.00	Payor Onboarding Grant

**List of Contracts Executed by the Pennsylvania eHealth Partnership Program
(July 1, 2020- June 20, 2021)**

Business Area 21 (Continued)

Grant	KeyHIE	793863	21POB21102	\$200,000.00	Payor Onboarding Grant
Grant	Clinical Connect	793238	21PMI21100	\$98,456.07	Patient Matching Improvement Grant
Grant	HealthShare Exchange	777978	21PMI21101	\$100,000.00	Patient Matching Improvement Grant
Grant	KeyHIE	793863	21PMI21102	\$100,000.00	Patient Matching Improvement Grant
MOU	PA Department of Health	689874	400021833	\$1,062,520	Public Health Gateway Projects
TOTAL				\$9,623,476.07	

Summary of Reportable Security Breaches

The Pennsylvania Patient and Provider Network experienced no reportable security breaches in 2020-2021.



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